

Appln. No. 09/931,336
Amendment dated May 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed February 11, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1 through 10 and 26 through 33 remain in this application. Claim 34 has been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action

Claims 30 through 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite.

It is contended in the Office Action that "it is not understood what direction is considered 'forward' and 'rearward'". However, each of these claims states that "the laminating layer is forward of the base panel and the base panel is rearward of the laminating layer", thus establishing to one of ordinary skill in the art that the laminating layer is forward of, or in front of, the base panel, while the base panel is rearward of, or behind, the laminating layer. The use of "forward" or "front", and "rearward", or "rear" (or "back"), is consistent with common usage in the art, as evidenced in U.S. Patent No. 4,991,878 to Cowan that uses the terminology "front sheet of the informational material" and "front surface of the base label" (see, for example, the Abstract of the '878 patent). See also the U.S. Patent No. 5,290,616 to Cowan at col. 2, lines 41 through 42 and col. 2, line 3, for example.

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Thus, for example, in the cross section of Figure 3 of the drawings of the present application, the laminating layer is shown "forward" (which is above in this drawing) the "rearward" base layer (which is below in this drawing).

Therefore, the use of "forward" and "rearward" in the claims is submitted to be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 30 through 32 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action

Claims 1 through 7, 9 and 31 through 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rankin et al (6,447,862).

While the rejection of claims 1 through 7, 9, and 31 through 33 is traversed, claim 1 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 34 which was indicated as being allowable over the prior art in the Office Action, to expedite prosecution of the present patent application. Therefore, claim 1, as well as claims 2 through 7, 9, and 31 through 33, which depend from claim 1, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 through 7, 9 and 31 through 33 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action

Claim 26 has been allowed.

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action states that claims 8, 10, 27-30 and 34 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (in its form prior to the present amendment thereof) into the recitation of claim 8, and therefore claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (in its form prior to the present amendment thereof) into the recitation of claim 27, and therefore claim 27 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (in its form prior to the present amendment thereof) into the recitation of claim 28, and therefore claim 28 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (in its form prior to the present amendment thereof) into the recitation of claim 29, and therefore claim 29 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (in its form prior to the present amendment thereof) into the recitation of claim 30, and therefore claim 30 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (in its form prior to the present amendment thereof) into the recitation of claim 8, and therefore claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

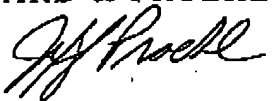
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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